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REVERE PUBLIC LIBRARY.
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1919

DEDICATION

OF THE

... New Library Building ...

(Gift of ANDREW CARNEGIE)

AT THE TOWN HALL

REVERE, MASS.



NOVEMBER EIGHTEENTH

NINETEEN HUNDRED AND THREE.



Revere Journal Print.

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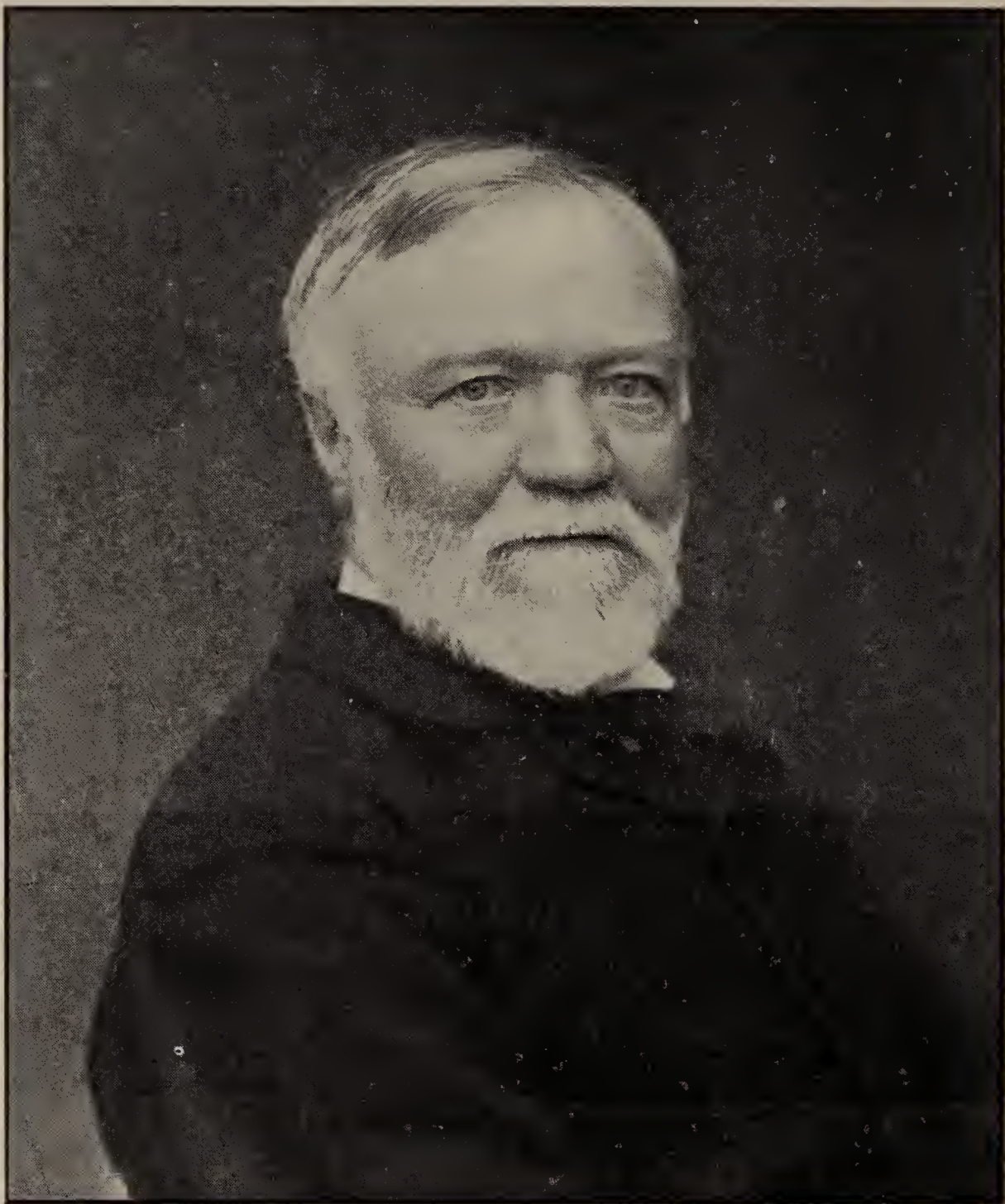
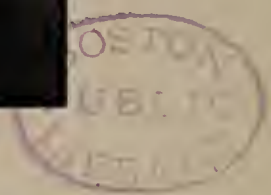


PHOTO BY ROCKWOOD.

ANDREW CARNEGIE

Donor of the Revere Public Library Building.



NEW LIBRARY BUILDING.

TRUSTEES AND BUILDING COMMITTEE.

Warren Fenno, Chairman.

J. Samuel Hodge, Secretary.

Dr. Edwin F. Cummings.

Judge Samuel R. Cutler.

Rev. Nelson S. Burbank.

Theodore Grover.

Henry Spavin (died December 11, 1902).

ARCHITECT.

S. Adams Webber, Revere.

CONTRACTOR.

Isaac Weaver, Revere.

INTERIOR FINISH AND FURNITURE.

Derby Desk Company, Boston.

PREFACE.

This little volume is the outgrowth of a desire, expressed by many, to have the leading events connected with the Public Library movement in Revere published in a form that can be easily preserved.

Instead of arranging a souvenir program announcing the exercises at the opening of the new building, the Trustees deemed it advisable to prepare a booklet in the form of a souvenir that would be of general interest to all the present and former residents of our town.

It was our plan to include in this publication the address delivered by President Faunce of Brown University at the dedication, but we were unable to do so, owing to the fact that this address was not in manuscript form and it could not be easily reproduced.

Learning that the chairman of our Board, Mr. Warren Fenno, had in his possession much accurate and valuable information concerning many of our public buildings, it seemed to us an excellent opportunity to put these interesting historical facts into a printed form for the benefit of the present and future generations.

To Mr. Fenno, therefore, we are indebted for the sketch that appears on our pages. Many things have been omitted that we should have been glad to include in our list of contents, but omissions were necessary on account of the limited space.

If our effort in this direction strengthens the reader's loyalty to Revere, to her past, her present and her future, we shall feel that our labors have not been in vain.

PROGRAM OF DEDICATORY EXERCISES.

CHORAL. "Our God Stands Firm," Full Chorus

INVOCATION, Rev. A. A. Stockdale

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS, Warren Fenno

GLORIA. "From Mozart's 12th Mass"
SCHOOL CHILDREN.

PRESENTATION OF KEYS, J. Samuel Hodge

RESPONSE, Chairman of Board of Selectmen

REMARKS, Edward W. Hazewell

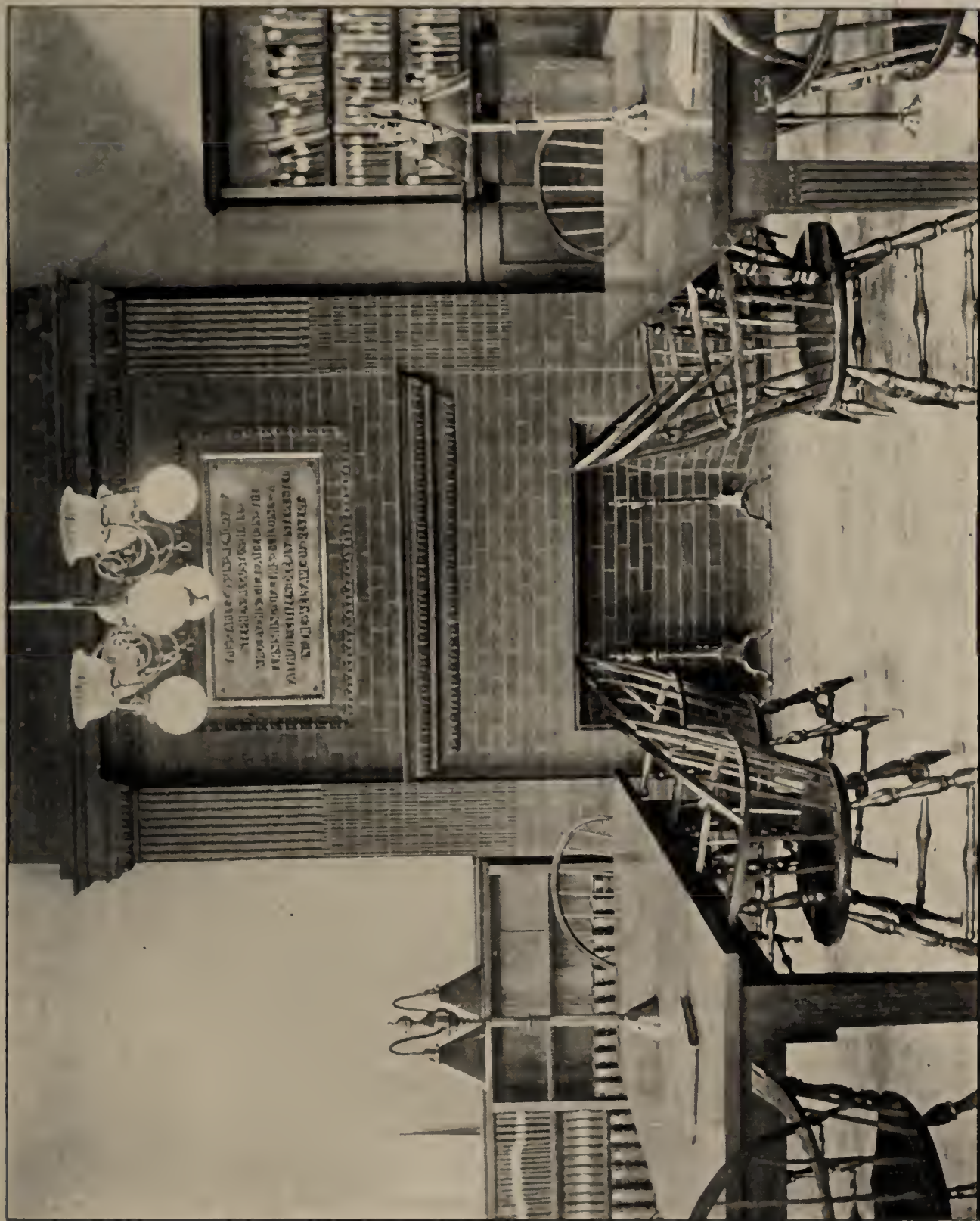
CHORUS. "'Tis Morn," Geibell
SCHOOL CHILDREN.

ADDRESS. President W. H. P. FAUNCE, Brown University

CHORUS. "To Thee O Country," Eichberg
SCHOOL CHILDREN.

BENEDICTION. Rev. J. P. Bixby

SINGING UNDER DIRECTION OF MR. WHITTEMORE.



ADULTS' READING ROOM.

ADDRESS OF MR. WARREN FENNO,
Chairman of Trustees.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is my duty as Chairman of the Library Trustees to call this meeting to order and to bid you welcome to the exercises of this afternoon.

Before introducing to you the distinguished speakers present with us to-day, permit me in a few brief words to give you a short history of our Public Library and the efforts made in years gone by to establish it.

Revere, first known as the village of Rumney Marsh, was in 1634, together with Winnisimmet and Pullen Point, made a part of Boston. Its municipal history for the next one hundred years is the history of Boston, of which it continued to be a part until 1739, when, notwithstanding the strenuous opposition of that town, it was incorporated as the town of Chelsea.

From this time on for almost the next one hundred years until about 1833, this village was the principal part of Chelsea. Perhaps it would not be out of place at this time to mention some of the old buildings now standing in this town that were here in Revolutionary days.

First, the old town meeting-house now used by the Unitarian Society built in 1710—remodelled in 1856 and again remodelled in 1885, originally it faced Beach Street and contained high back pews and galleries on the two sides; one of these galleries was used by the slaves, who in olden times were owned by the people of this town. This church was supported by the town and here were held the town meetings, until the building of the first brick school-house in 1805 which stood about where Central Avenue

now enters Beach Street. This school-house furnished accommodations for the town meetings until a Town Hall was built in 1835.

The Newgate-Yeaman house—now standing on the Boulevard near Mill Street, built about 1680 and still owned by the descendants of the Yeaman family. In the Creek opposite this house was fought the Battle of Chelsea Creek, one of the first battles of the Revolution. I am sorry to say that the old house will probably be torn down the coming spring.

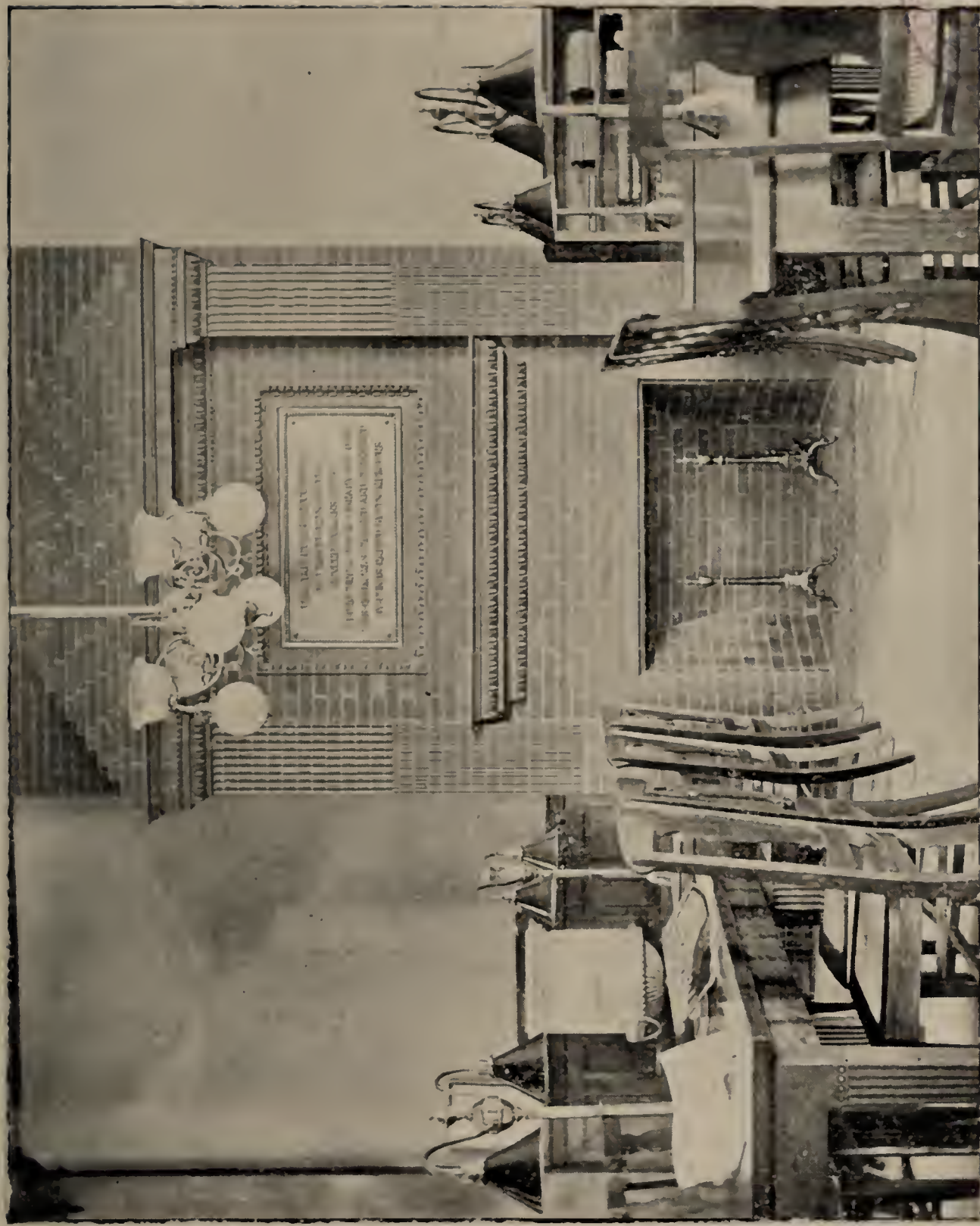
The Tewksbury-Smith house on School Street—in olden times the town tavern kept by Jonathan Hawks and afterwards by his widow Abigail. On the old town records will be found from time to time where it was voted to adjourn to meet at Hawks's Tavern. I do not know whether this was because the church was cold or that they needed something to cheer the inner man in the distressing times in which they lived. The Kendall house, on Cushman Avenue, the Green house, on Winthrop Avenue, the Sales house, in Beachmont, are other houses that may be mentioned.

The little one-story dilapidated house on Broadway, nearly opposite Winthrop Avenue, formerly known as the Berry house, is said to have been the first school-house of the town.

Of the truth of this I am unable to say. The first record of a school-house is in 1749, when Abigail Hawks and others decided to the town of Chelsea a school-house situated near the meeting-house for which the town paid ten shillings.

When the first brick school-house was built in 1805, it was voted to build where the old school-house stood and as has been stated before this location was at the head of Central Avenue.

By the first census, in 1765, of the town of Chelsea there were 462 inhabitants. In 1790, 472, a gain of ten only in twenty-five years. In 1800 there were 849, but in 1830 it had decreased to 770. There were but eight houses and twenty-nine inhabitants in that part of Chelsea south of the present location of the Boston and Maine Railroad tracks in 1830. Between this track



JUVENILE READING ROOM.



and Prattville were only two houses. The people of the Ferry district, as it was called, were obliged to come to this part of the town to town meetings, to church and to school.

In 1833 the Winnisimmet Land and Ferry Company was incorporated. They purchased the ferry franchise and nearly all the land in the lower part of Chelsea.

This land was laid out in house lots and that part of the town began to grow, so that a census taken in 1837 showed that the Ferry district had 954 inhabitants; Prattville, 58; the Centre, 436, and Pullen Point, 146.

At a town meeting held August 12, 1839, a petition was read, signed by forty-three voters of the Ferry district, asking the town to vote in favor of said district being set off as a separate town, stating that it was a great inconvenience for them to attend town meeting in this district and to be obliged to send their children here to school; that there were 361 polls in the Ferry district to 185 in the centre village.

The meeting voted to indefinitely postpone the subject. Had the petition been granted at that time, this part of the town would have retained the name of Chelsea and the Ferry district would have taken some other name.

November 25 of the same year it was voted to hold half of the town meetings at the Ferry district, the state and town elections to be held in this part of the town.

The rapid growth of Chelsea from this time forward and the slow growth of this part of the town led to a separation. In 1846 the town of North Chelsea was incorporated.

At that time there were about 900 inhabitants in North Chelsea, including what is now Winthrop, and 2,100 in Chelsea.

In 1852 the town of Winthrop was set apart from North Chelsea and for the next twenty years the growth of the town was very slow. In 1871 the name of the town was changed to Revere, and soon after that, on the building of the Narrow Gauge Railroad and the opening up of the land at Beachmont

and Crescent Beach, the town's growth has been rapid, so that to-day the estimated population is about 12,500.

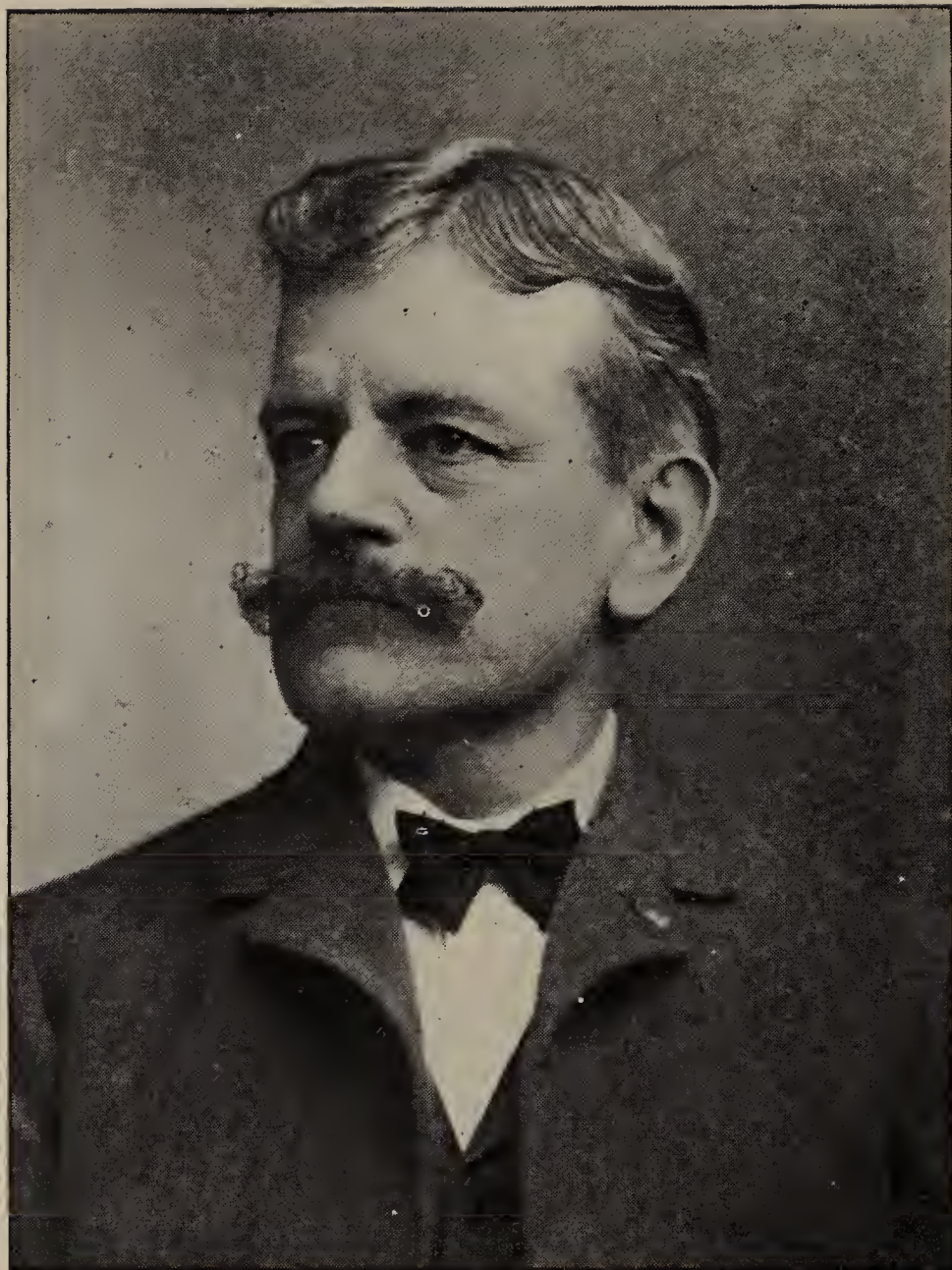
But to return to the subject of our Library. Sometime between 1825 and 1830 there was started in this town a library known as the Chelsea Social Library.

The Rev. Joseph Tuckerman, pastor of the Unitarian Church at that time, and the Cary family of Chelsea were some of the people instrumental in establishing this library, and they contributed liberally with books from their own libraries. Shares were sold for one dollar and each subscriber was entitled to take out as many books at a time as he held shares. Books were given out Wednesday and Saturday evenings only. Where this Library was first located I am unable to say, but at a town meeting held April 5, 1840, it was voted that John Fenno (at that time one of the selectmen) be instructed to let the Social Library in the centre village have the use of one of the rooms in the Town Hall.

Sometime in the fifties it was reorganized and new books purchased. I have in my possession a written catalogue containing 327 volumes.

The last time they were in circulation was more than forty years ago, when they were located in the little dry goods store, then standing on Beach Street opposite the Unitarian Church, kept by Miss Jane Berry. For the past forty years they have been stored in the Unitarian Church until a few days ago. The remnant consisting of 121 volumes was placed in the new Library there to remain in its original condition as a relic of the past. In 1872 the Rev. Louis Aldrich established a reading room in the old Engine House now used as the Police Station, several hundred dollars were raised by subscription, and the town voted the free use of the room. This venture was not a success, and in a few weeks the doors were closed. In 1880 a few young men met at the store of Frank H. Hussey on Broadway and agitated the question of a Public Library. A petition was drawn up and sent to the Selectmen asking that the subject be brought before the next town meeting.

At a town meeting held April 29, 1880, Albert S. Burnham



WARREN FENNO,

Chairman of the Board of Trustees and Building Committee.



served as Moderator and let me say here, that was the first time he served in that capacity.

The Town voted to establish a Library and \$500 was appropriated for the same.

It was also voted that Dr. O. G. Ross, Rev. Joseph P. Bixby and Edward W. Hazewell together with the Selectmen, Ensign Kimball, Charles Bird and James H. Wade be a committee to carry into effect the vote of the town and to report at some future meeting. On the afternoon of June 30, 1880, at a town meeting of which John P. Pierce was Moderator, the report of the committee recommending the opening of a Public Library on the first floor of the Town Hall, was read and accepted. The vote was as I remember seventeen in favor, nine against.

It was voted that a committee of three, consisting of Albert S. Burnham, Josiah B. Shurtleff and Warren Fenno, retire and nominate a board of six trustees to serve until the annual meeting in March. They reported the following names which were accepted by the Town: Jonathan Stone, Michael Sullivan, Edward W. Hazewell, Henry F. Cooledge, Orin G. Ross and Andrew Burnham; Mr. Stone declining to serve, Rev. J. P. Bixby was elected in his place.

Of the first Board of Trustees there are now living and are present here to-day Messrs. Bixby, Sullivan and Hazewell. The Library containing 507 volumes was opened to the public in the Town Hall, November 6, 1880. On that day eighty-three books were given out. Miss Annie A. Morse was the first Librarian and continued until March, 1891, when she was succeeded by Miss Harriet T. Fenno. In 1891 the Library was moved into a larger room in the Town Hall and branches were established for the delivery of books, at Beachmont, Crescent Beach and Franklin Park and the annual appropriation was increased to one thousand dollars.

By the fire which destroyed the old Town Hall, ^{JAN 18}~~February~~ 19, 1897, the Library was badly damaged by smoke and water and for the next two years had its quarters in the Sherman Hannah Block on Broadway. Upon the completion of the new Town

Hall the Library was opened in the basement of this building.

In 1896 the Revere Woman's Club began to work for a new Library Building. A very successful fair was held under the management of the Club, Mrs. N. Samantha Sparhawk, president; entertainments given and much money raised by the different members. The amount raised by this organization with interest amounts to over thirty-one hundred dollars. This money, with the legacy of Mr. Stephen A. Hall, has been used for the finishing and furnishing of the two reading rooms. A gift useful and enduring is a grand memento of the untiring energy and generosity of this body of women. May they continue to prosper and succeed in the future as they have in the past.

A tablet, acknowledging their gift, has been placed in the children's reading room.

Our late fellow townsman, Stephen A. Hall, had the respect and esteem of his fellow citizens, as was shown by his election to the school committee, to the office of Assessors, and to many town committees. He was especially interested in the cause of education, and was a firm believer in public libraries.

Mr. Hall left by will the sum of \$1,500 for library purposes. This sum, with the accumulated interest, has been used as stated before.

Mr. Henry F. Cooledge, one of the first trustees, who died in 1882, left to the town for library purposes the sum of \$300. This sum was used in 1896 in part payment of the library lot.

In October, 1901, through the efforts of Mr. Ernest H. Pierce, editor of *Revere Journal*, the following letter was received from Andrew Carnegie:

SKIBO CASTLE, ARDGAY, N. B.

E. H. PIERCE, Esq.

Dear Sir:—Responding to yours of August 8, if Revere will furnish a suitable site and agree to maintain a free Public Library at a cost of not less than \$2,000 a year, Mr. Carnegie will be glad to provide twenty thousand dollars for a suitable free Library Building.

Respectfully,

JAMES BERTRAM,
Secretary.

At a town meeting held November 11, 1901, the town voted to accept this generous offer.

The trustees were instructed to procure plans and specifications for a new Library to be built on the lot, on Beach and Library Streets, purchased in 1896.

The money from Mr. Carnegie has been received and paid to the town treasurer and the building completed.

The details and cost of the same will be referred to by our Secretary, Mr. Hodge.

Our Library has increased from 507 volumes, in 1880, to 9,000 volumes, in 1903, and the number of books circulated from 6,100, in 1882, to over 48,000, in 1903; the annual appropriation from \$500 to \$2,500.

With the opening of the new Library every week day from 2 to 9 P. M., we shall look for a still larger increase in the future.

Before closing my remarks let us pause for a moment to pay tribute to the memory of one, who, until his death, was for nearly twenty years a member of the library trustees. I refer to our late fellow member, Henry Spavin, who died December 11, 1902, always a friend of the Library and active in its affairs he gave to your trustees his best judgment and co-operation and in his death we lost a true friend and the town a worthy citizen and a faithful public servant.

PRESENTATION OF KEYS,

By Mr. J. Samuel Hodge, Secretary.

Mr. Chairman of the Board of Selectmen:

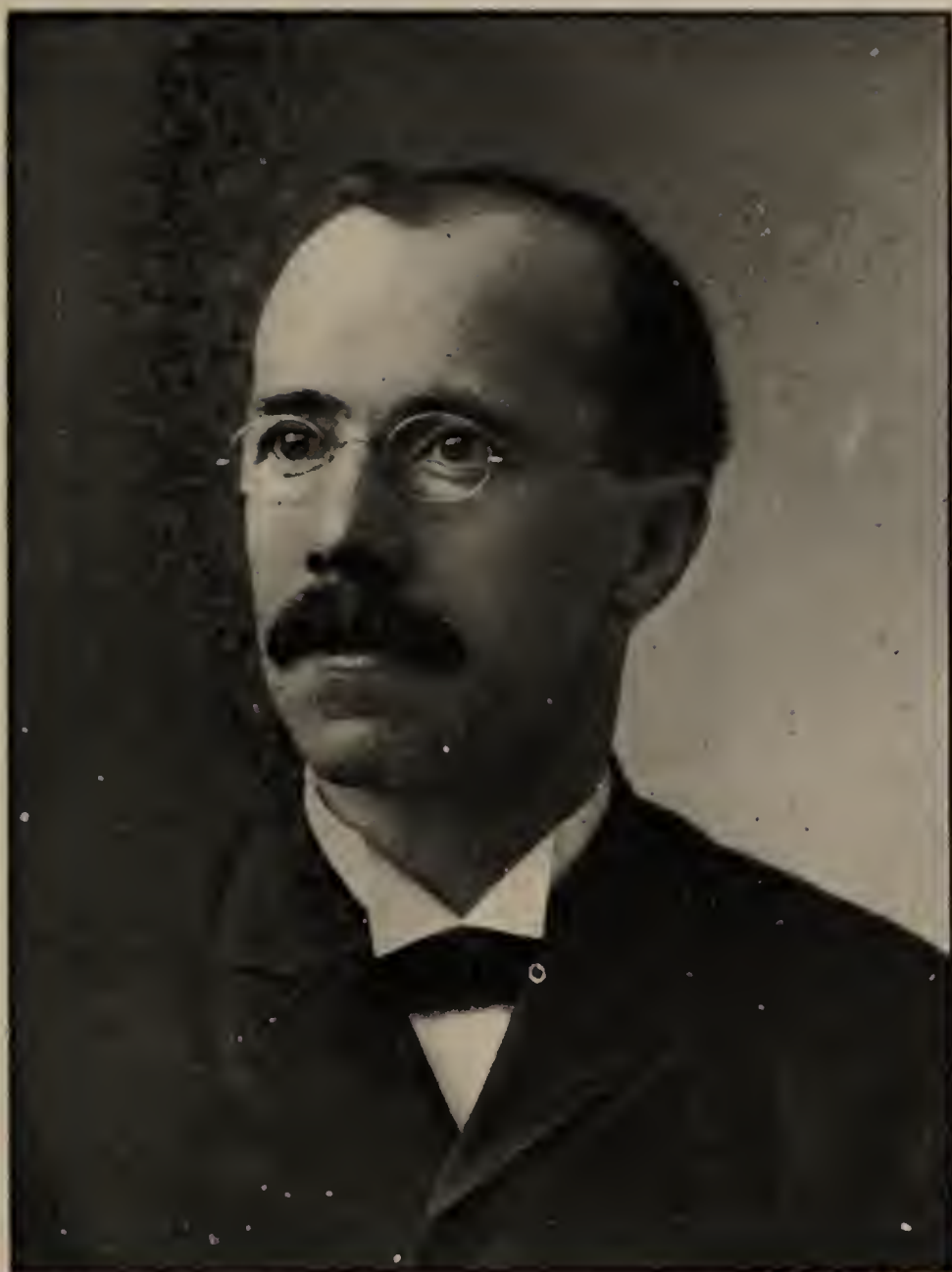
In presenting to you as custodian of public property in the Town of Revere the keys of the New Public Library Building, it seems fitting that a few words should be said upon the building and the manner in which such a building was made possible. Some years ago a society composed of Revere women conceived the idea of the possibility of raising the funds necessary to fill a long felt want of a building devoted especially to Library purposes. By their efforts sufficient money was raised to furnish and finish a goodly portion of the new building.

\$3,138.98 was the sum raised by them and cheerfully turned over to the Trustees to expend.

A tablet has been placed in one of the rooms in commemoration of their splendid efforts to secure for the Town of Revere a Public Library Building.

Mr. Stephen A. Hall, one of Revere's most respected citizens, left for the same purpose a legacy amounting to \$1,870.27, and an acknowledgment on a tablet in another room has been made of his generosity which made it possible to furnish and finish the remainder of the building.

In such manner the interior of the building was provided for and it remained for Mr. Ernest H. Pierce, editor of the *Revere Journal*, to recognize and seize upon what appeared to be an opportunity to secure a donation from Mr. Andrew Carnegie, sufficient for the erection of the building proper. Success followed his appeal and Mr. Carnegie offered \$20,000, without stipulations of any kind that would even connect his name with



J. SAMUEL HODGE,

Secretary of the Board of Trustees and Building Committee.

the building except that the town should provide what appeared to him sufficient to properly maintain it.

In recognition of his magnificent and unostentatious generosity the Trustees had inscribed upon the front of the building that it was the gift of Andrew Carnegie. Mr. Theodore Grover presented and had placed in the building a handsome marble drinking fountain; the Current Events Club, a stained glass window and Mr. Warren Fenno, a fine pair of antique andirons.

So it has been made possible through the generosity and persistent efforts of those concerned for the town of Revere to possess a Public Library Building finished and furnished without addition to the burden now borne by her people in the shape of taxation.

Such, Mr. Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, is the building, the keys of which I now place in your hands.

ACCEPTANCE OF BUILDING,

By B. A. Andrews, M. D., Chairman Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is with much pleasure that I accept in behalf of the Town of Revere this, our new Library Building; it marks another step in the progress of Revere. We are justly proud of our public buildings and this beautiful edifice is a fit companion to the rest. This is a time for congratulation and sincere thanks; thanks first of all to that great hearted philanthropist, whose generous gift has made this occasion possible. Most of us no doubt have had our day dreams in which we have indulged our fancy as to what we would do if we were possessed of great wealth. We have thought how we would delight to relieve poverty and suffering, how we would like to further this or that charitable object and call down upon our heads the blessings of posterity; but alas to most of us great wealth is denied. We must be content with an humble sphere in life and ask no better monu-

ment than the plain marble; but can you conceive of a more fitting monument to the memory of any man than such buildings as these scattered all over our broad land and in other countries also? Surely Mr. Carnegie has builded wisely and well and as we to-day take possession of this, one of the memorials of his bounty, our hearts go out to him in gratitude; secondly, our thanks are due to those public-spirited citizens who conceived and carried out the idea of making known our needs to the donor, and they surely must feel, to-day, happy in this, the fruition of their desire; and thirdly, we wish to thank the Board of Trustees and all others who have given their time and thought to transforming the gift of money into this beautiful and substantial edifice. Commencing with almost nothing our Library has steadily grown, keeping pace with the needs of our people until to-day we can proudly point to one which compares favorably with that of any town of our size. But if we cannot all have great wealth we can at least attain to that which money cannot always buy and which poverty cannot take away, and that is knowledge. Every human mind is a vast storehouse and we can at our will leave it comparatively empty or fill it with rare treasures gathered from a thousand different sources, one of the most important of which is the Public Library.

I well remember when a small lad how I used to haunt the old library at Charlestown and later those of Boston and of Harvard and what a delight it was to fathom the mysteries of history, of travel, and of science. A good book is a delightful companion; a silent but potent teacher, it gives up its treasures and asks for nothing, and I could wish for no greater blessing to our people than that each book in this Library should do its good and perfect work. I don't know just what the needs of our Library are to-day but it occurred to me that many of us have in our private libraries books which we could well spare and which would add to the value of the collection here; if some concerted effort were made, many hundred volumes could thus be obtained without cost. I can think of no more fitting place or time than this in which to



HENRY SPAVIN,
(Died Dec. 11, 1902).

REV. NELSON S. BURBANK, PH. D.

EDWIN F. CUMMINGS, M. D.

JUDGE SAMUEL R. CUTLER.

THEODORE GROVER.

MEMBERS OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND BUILDING COMMITTEE
REVERE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

call your attention to a suggestion made by my colleague, Mr. Samuel Segee, viz., that we have not at present a local historical society and that our new library might well be made the birth-place of such.

ADDRESS OF MR. EDWARD W. HAZEWELL

one of the members of the first board of trustees, said in part:

That he was pleased to be present on this occasion and told of the meetings of the library trustees, of which he was a member for seven years, the first meeting of which was held at the house of Dr. Ross, when Andrew Burnham was elected chairman and Mr. Hazewell, secretary.

He wished at this time to say that one of the citizens of Revere gave his check for \$100 with the understanding that his name should not be mentioned. That gentleman was Mr. Theodore Pinkham, then a resident of Revere, now living in Brookline. Mr. Pinkham was a native of Revere and served for several years as Selectman and was also a library trustee.

Mr. Hazewell also spoke of his acquaintance with Mr. Henry F. Cooledge, a member of the first board of trustees and thought that some recognition should be made by tablet or otherwise of his gift of money to the Library.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES TO THE TOWN MEETING.

To the Citizens of the Town of Revere:

The committee to whom you intrusted the matter of the construction of a new Public Library Building wish at this time to make their final report.

The funds intrusted to us for this purpose were as follows:

Donations from Mr. Andrew Carnegie	\$20,000.00
Interest on Same	113.87
Hall Fund	1,870.27
Revere Woman's Club Fund	3,138.98
Public Library Fund	531.76
Appropriation for Grading	1,000.00
From Sale of Old Stacks	580.00
Interest for January, 1904	17.92

Total\$27,252.80

The expenditures were:

Architect's Services	1,214.06
Constructional Cost of Building and Grading	24,281.10
New Stacks and Miscellaneous Items	1,382.24
Balance on hand	375.40

Total\$27,252.80

Your committee wish to state that the building is finished and has been in use since December last, and it is with a great deal of pleasure that they are able to say that the contractors completed their work within the amount specified. So that the town has now a building well suited for Library purposes without cost to itself and leaving in the hands of the Trustees the balance mentioned, viz., \$375.40.

Mr. Warren Fenno contributed to the furnishings of the building to the extent of a fine pair of antique andirons and Mr. Theodore Grover gave a beautiful marble drinking fountain. The Current Events Club gave a stained glass window which was placed in the building. With this the completion of their work, your committee ask to be discharged.

Respectfully,

WARREN FENNO,
J. SAMUEL HODGE,
NELSON S. BURBANK,
SAMUEL R. CUTLER,
THEODORE GROVER,
EDWIN F. CUMMINGS.

HISTORICAL NOTES OF THE PUBLIC BUILDINGS
OF THIS TOWN.

It would seem most fitting in this account of the dedicatory exercises of the New Public Library to make brief reference to the public buildings of the town.

As was customary in most towns before, and for some years after the American Revolution, the meeting-house was not only used for a place of worship, but also for town meeting, the parish being supported by the town, all of its citizens being taxed for its support.

TOWN HALL.

At a town meeting held May 21, 1835, called by Chas. S. Cary, John Fenno, Jr., and Joseph Belcher, Selectmen, Joseph Stowers, Town Clerk, and John Tewksbury, Constable, it was voted: That the town purchase of John Wright, a piece of land for a site for a town house on the Salem Turnpike on the low land, so-called, \$150 for one-third of an acre or in that proportion for the land whether more or less be taken for said purpose.

Three thousand dollars was appropriated to buy the land and to build the building, four hundred dollars being raised by taxation that year.

The architect was A. Sparrell of Boston, and Francis W. Broad of Brighton, the builder.

The size of the building was 60 x 40 feet, and the total cost for land and building, \$3,036.03. The committee apologized to the town for exceeding the appropriation by \$36.03.

The first town meeting was held October 28, 1835, it being the State election and the following vote was cast for Governor:

Edward Everett, Whig	60
Marcus Morton, Democrat	42
Samuel T. Armstrong	3

An addition of about twenty feet was added to this building in 1878, at an expense of \$2,500. On the 19th of January in 1897 it was totally destroyed by fire and on February 8 of the same year a committee was appointed to build the present town hall. Cobb and Greenleaf of Boston were the architects and W. B. Clark and Son, builders.

The corner-stone was laid October 9, 1897, by the Massachusetts Grand Lodge of Masons, assisted by the Chelsea Lodges and Commandery on which occasion Senator Henry Cabot Lodge delivered the oration.

The building was dedicated January 11, 1899, Mr. Lemuel K. Washburn, delivering the oration. The cost of this building, land and furnishings was about \$120,000.

the town committee for the purpose of applying the money it may fetch towards building a new school-house in the body of the town, with all the rent due and any other money that may belong to said school house, and request that this may be recorded by the town clerk on the town records.

SAMUEL CARY,
EDWARD PRATT,
CALEB PRATT, 2D,
SAMUEL PRATT,
DANIEL PRATT.

This house must have been built by private subscription as the town records do not show that the town ever took any action thereon. Where it was located, we are unable to say, probably somewhere in Prattville.

May 6, 1805, it was voted to build two school-houses, one for the centre of the town to include Winnisimmet district, and one at Pullen Point.

A committee consisting of Josiah Batchelder, John S. Tewksbury, William Chcever, Samuel Pratt, James Floyd, Jr., and Joseph Stowers was appointed to build said school-houses.

Six hundred dollars were raised by taxation and it was voted to hire on the town credit what money may be wanted to complete said houses over the above six hundred dollars.

June 13, of the same year the committee reported in favor of, and the town voted to build a one-story brick building on, the site of the old school-house. They also reported in favor of building a one-story wooden building at Pullen Point and that Mr. John S. Tewksbury would present the town with land on which to build a school-house, which the town accepted and a vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Tewksbury, for the same.

This building was the first school-house built in what is now the town of Winthrop and stood on Winthrop Street near the present Town Hall.

The brick school-house built in the centre of the town was a one-story building that accommodated about seventy scholars and stood, as stated before, about where Central Avenue now enters Beach Street.

For the next twenty-seven years this was the only school building in what is now Chelsea and Revere, children living in the Ferry district, as Chelsea was then called, and in Prattville were obliged to come to this building for their education. Here also were held the town meetings. The first one being March 3, 1806.

At the annual town and State elections there would gather at this house the voters from all parts of the town and it was the custom of the people in the Centre to take home with them to dinner the voters from the Ferry and Pullen Point districts.

The first school-house of the Ferry district was built in 1833, and stood on the corner of Chestnut Street and Washington Avenue. This same year the General Court passed an act allowing towns to be divided into school districts and on April 1, 1833, it was voted to divide the town into three districts.

First, the Ferry district comprising what is now the city of Chelsea.

Second, the Pullen Point district, consisting of what is now the town of Winthrop.

Third, the Centre district, the present town of Revere.

In 1834, a fourth district was established at Point Shirley; and in 1838 the fifth district, under the name of the North district (Franklin Park) was formed.

About the time of the incorporation of North Chelsea in 1846, Chelsea voted to abolish their school districts but they continued in operation in this town until April 4, 1853, when the town voted to abolish them.

Whatever action was taken by a school district was binding on that district only, each district paying its own school expenses.

The first district meeting for the Centre was held in April, 1833, the mode prescribed by Statutes for calling meetings was followed and John T. Wiggin, was elected district clerk and took the oath of office.

On the 11th of March, 1834, application was made to the clerk by ten voters to call a meeting agreeable to former vote of the district and it appears that he gave notice, but whether in conformity to the vote is uncertain. Of the proceedings of this meeting there was no record, but from an account which purposed to be a copy of the records it seems that James S. Tewksbury was chosen clerk, but it does not appear that he ever accepted the office or took the oath of office, but it does appear that he never acted as clerk or kept any portion of the records.

In March, 1835, there was a warrant recorded by Joseph Stowers, purporting to have been signed by Tewksbury as clerk, directed to the constable commanding him to notify the voters to meet on some Monday, but what day of the month or year the warrant did not say. The importance of these records will be shown further on.

the town committee for the purpose of applying the money it may fetch towards building a new school-house in the body of the town, with all the rent due and any other money that may belong to said school house, and request that this may be recorded by the town clerk on the town records.

SAMUEL CARY,
EDWARD PRATT,
CALEB PRATT, 2D,
SAMUEL PRATT,
DANIEL PRATT.

This house must have been built by private subscription as the town records do not show that the town ever took any action thereon. Where it was located, we are unable to say, probably somewhere in Prattville.

May 6, 1805, it was voted to build two school-houses, one for the centre of the town to include Winnisimmet district, and one at Pullen Point.

A committee consisting of Josiah Batchelder, John S. Tewksbury, William Cheever, Samuel Pratt, James Floyd, Jr., and Joseph Stowers was appointed to build said school-houses.

Six hundred dollars were raised by taxation and it was voted to hire on the town credit what money may be wanted to complete said houses over the above six hundred dollars.

June 13, of the same year the committee reported in favor of, and the town voted to build a one-story brick building on, the site of the old school-house. They also reported in favor of building a one-story wooden building at Pullen Point and that Mr. John S. Tewksbury would present the town with land on which to build a school-house, which the town accepted and a vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Tewksbury, for the same.

This building was the first school-house built in what is now the town of Winthrop and stood on Winthrop Street near the present Town Hall.

The brick school-house built in the centre of the town was a one-story building that accommodated about seventy scholars and stood, as stated before, about where Central Avenue now enters Beach Street.

For the next twenty-seven years this was the only school building in what is now Chelsea and Revere, children living in the Ferry district, as Chelsea was then called, and in Prattville were obliged to come to this building for their education. Here also were held the town meetings. The first one being March 3, 1806.

At the annual town and State elections there would gather at this house the voters from all parts of the town and it was the custom of the people in the Centre to take home with them to dinner the voters from the Ferry and Pullen Point districts.

The first school-house of the Ferry district was built in 1833, and stood on the corner of Chestnut Street and Washington Avenue. This same year the General Court passed an act allowing towns to be divided into school districts and on April 1, 1833, it was voted to divide the town into three districts.

First, the Ferry district comprising what is now the city of Chelsea.

Second, the Pullen Point district, consisting of what is now the town of Winthrop.

Third, the Centre district, the present town of Revere.

In 1834, a fourth district was established at Point Shirley; and in 1838 the fifth district, under the name of the North district (Franklin Park) was formed.

About the time of the incorporation of North Chelsea in 1846, Chelsea voted to abolish their school districts but they continued in operation in this town until April 4, 1853, when the town voted to abolish them.

Whatever action was taken by a school district was binding on that district only, each district paying its own school expenses.

The first district meeting for the Centre was held in April, 1833, the mode prescribed by Statutes for calling meetings was followed and John T. Wiggin, was elected district clerk and took the oath of office.

On the 11th of March, 1834, application was made to the clerk by ten voters to call a meeting agreeable to former vote of the district and it appears that he gave notice, but whether in conformity to the vote is uncertain. Of the proceedings of this meeting there was no record, but from an account which purposed to be a copy of the records it seems that James S. Tewksbury was chosen clerk, but it does not appear that he ever accepted the office or took the oath of office, but it does appear that he never acted as clerk or kept any portion of the records.

In March, 1835, there was a warrant recorded by Joseph Stowers, purporting to have been signed by Tewksbury as clerk, directed to the constable commanding him to notify the voters to meet on some Monday, but what day of the month or year the warrant did not say. The importance of these records will be shown further on.

The brick school-house continued to be used as a Grammar school but the district was forced to provide other quarters for the primary scholars, a school being kept at one time in a large room of the Tewksbury house on School Street, and at another time in the lower room of the Town Hall.

In 1838, the School Committee of which the Rev. Horatio Alger, was chairman, reported that there were one hundred and sixty children of the school age of four to sixteen, that the brick school-house would accommodate about seventy children, that five different rooms had been used in the last seven years for primary schools. About this time, the Centre district began to agitate the question of building a new school-house and in March, 1838, a committee of three was appointed to inquire into the needs of a new school-house and the cost of the same.

The committee consisted of Dr. Benjamin Shurtleff, Zachariah Hall and John Wright.

On June 4, 1838, this committee reported to the district that land could be purchased on what is now School Street, of Mr. John Peirce, for two hundred dollars, they recommended the building of a two-story brick building at a cost of between four and five thousand dollars. They also reported that the plans had been drawn by Wm. A. Atrott, that the Hon. Horace Mann, Secretary of the State Board of Education, had approved of the plans and that the building complete would cost between four and five thousand dollars. The district appropriated three hundred dollars and authorized the committee to purchase the land and to build the building. This the committee proceeded to do. They felt themselves authorized and empowered to borrow but were unable to procure the money at any of the Boston banks as they were unwilling to loan to school districts, but they succeeded in hiring funds of private individuals in Boston. The committee again reported in March, 1839, that they had purchased the land on what is now School Street of Capt. John Pierce, for \$300. Mr. Joseph Ripley, was selected to purchase the material and to superintend the work. It had been estimated that it would require 170,000 bricks to build a building 50 x 52 feet, the size was reduced to 50 x 44 1-2 feet, and it required 232,000 bricks to build the same, the estimate on the lumber was equally erroneous; instead of \$500 as reported by the committee it cost \$1,556, exclusive of the window frames, sash, blinds and outbuildings which cost \$761; desks, etc., \$392. The cost of the building was \$9,269.85.

The people of the district had watched the building of the new



THE NEW TOWN HALL.

school-house with great interest under the impression that Dr. Shurtleff was going to make a present of the same to the district. Here was a committee authorized by the district to proceed to the erection of a brick building at an estimated cost of between four and five thousand dollars and the district had only voted to appropriate \$300 and had made no provision to raise or borrow the money to pay for the same.

At last the building was completed and turned over to the School Committee, the children march out of the little school-house into the new one only to remain a few days when they marched back again. The committee submitted their report to the district and it was voted not to accept the building. Then issued a long and bitter struggle. Mr. Peter C. Hall, at that time a resident of this town and owner of the farm afterwards carried on by the late Ensign Kimball, and now part of the Squires farm, led the opposition to the acceptance of the building and he, together with Edward K. Smith and Thomas Park, were appointed a committee with authority to consult counsel and to report at some future meeting with regard to the liability of the district for the action of the committee.

The committee reported that they had consulted Mr. Wm. Brigham, a well-known Boston lawyer, and who gave an opinion that the election of the district clerk and the calling of the meetings had not been done in a legal manner and that the district was not liable for the action of the committee. The result of this decision was that Dr. Shurtleff, who was the financial man of the committee and personally hired the money was obliged to take up the notes as they became due and had a school-house on his hands that had cost over \$9,200. Thus matters stood for over a year and another committee was appointed and they reported in favor of building a wooden building at a cost of \$1,400. At this time Dr. Shurtleff offered to give the district the balance if the district would pay him six thousand dollars. It was finally settled by the district giving its notes for five thousand dollars and Dr. Shurtleff made a present of the balance (\$4,269) to the district, and the building was called the Shurtleff School.

We do not consider that the district was exactly fair in its dealings with Dr. Shurtleff, although the committee exceeded their estimate, for which some of the men who worked on the building were responsible, the work being done by the day, the district should have raised the money and limited the committee in the amount to be spent.

On the division of the town of Chelsea and North Chelsea, in

1846, there was one school-house in this part of the town and one each at Pullen Point and Point Shirley, with a total of 195 scholars. On the incorporation of the town of Winthrop in 1852, this town had only one school-house, the Shurtleff building, two rooms with 125 scholars; the annual appropriation was \$600.

In 1856, a school was established at Franklin Park, in a room rented for that purpose. Previous to that time the children of that village had been going to the schools of Malden and Saugus, this town paying their tuition. The same year another school was established in the Shurtleff building called the Intermediate School.

In 1859 the first school-house at Franklin Park was built at an expense of \$800. This was a one-story building and was located on the site of the present building.

In 1873, the Shurtleff building remodelled at a cost of \$4,000 and five schools established. The number of school children at that time was 272. The annual appropriation was \$4,000.

November 6, 1877, a committee was appointed to see about building a school-house at Beachmont. The committee reported in March, 1878, five members being in favor of locating the building this side of Boatfield bridge, near Wood's gravel pit, as in their opinion it not only would accommodate Beachmont but also the district near the Eastern Railroad. The minority of the committee, two members, reported in favor of building at Beachmont on Crescent Avenue on the land given by the Boston Land Company. The minority report was accepted and a two-story building was erected which cost \$2,500, and continued to be used until the Bradstreet Avenue building was erected, when it was sold and moved away.

In 1879 the building of a school-house on Malden Street came before the town, the question of the location excited a great deal of discussion. Mr. John P. Squires offered to give a lot of land for the building, which the town at first accepted; but it was considered too far up Malden Street. After having four meetings it was decided to build on the present location; the cost was \$2,900.

In 1882, a primary school was established in the banquet room of the old Town Hall and was there about a year when it was moved back to the Shurtleff building.

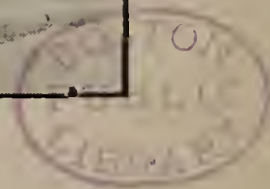
The Franklin Avenue building was built in 1882: a two story wooden building, at an expense of \$3,850. This was built with the idea of accommodating both the Centre and Crescent Beach districts, but it did not accommodate either and after the building



THE OLD SHURTLEFF SCHOOL HOUSE.



THE NEW SHURTLEFF SCHOOL HOUSE.



of the Walnut Avenue School it was abandoned and has not been used for school purposes since.

The next year, 1883, the present two-story wooden school-house at Franklin Park was built at an expense of \$1,400.

In 1885 the demand for more school accommodations led to the building of the eight-room wooden building on Winthrop Avenue, at a cost of \$17,300.

Two rooms were added to the Crescent Avenue School in 1886 at an expense of \$2,500.

The Walnut Avenue four-room wooden building was built in 1888 at an expense of \$8,700.

The four-room wooden school-house at Berkeley Park, Beachmont, was built in 1890, at a cost of \$11,576.

In 1891, the old Shurtleff building being out of repair, it was torn down and the present building with eight rooms and an assembly hall was erected, the cost being \$30,000.

Four rooms were added to the Walnut Avenue School in 1893, at a cost of \$14,282.

The eight-room brick building with an assembly hall, on Bradstreet Avenue, was built in 1896, at a cost of \$39,500. The cost of this building was increased by the litigation between the contractors and the town.

In 1898, after several town meetings, the town voted to build an eight-room brick school building on Mountain Avenue. The work to be done by the day. Thirty thousand dollars was at first appropriated, but additional appropriations carried the cost up to \$49,000.

The Wolcott School on Waverly Avenue, in 1900, was another building that excited a great deal of interest and led to the appointing of four different committees before the location was settled. This building was of brick, twelve rooms with an assembly hall, and cost with grading, \$59,723.

The building of a four-room wooden building on Revere Street, at an expense of \$12,775, and the four-room wooden addition on the Crescent Avenue School at a cost of \$14,500, in 1903, will be recalled by all and at the present writing, 1904, \$45,000 has been appropriated for a brick building on Yeaman Street, precinct 4.

At the present time the town employs seventy teachers, has about 2,900 scholars and appropriates \$65,000 for the support of its schools.

Our schools are among the best in the State and the citizens of Revere can point with pride to well-equipped school-houses, efficient corps of teachers and fine course of study.

TRUSTEES OF THE REVERE PUBLIC LIBRARY

SINCE 1880 WITH TIMES OF SERVICE.

Rev. Joseph P. Bixby, 1880 to 1884.
Andrew Burnham, 1880 to 1882.
Edward W. Hazewell, 1880 to 1887.
M. Sullivan, 1880 to 1883.
Henry F. Cooledge, 1880 to 1882.
O. G. Ross, 1880 to 1881.
Theodore Pinkham, 1881 to 1883.
Edw. H. Whoof, 1882 to 1883.
John A. Staples, 1882 to 1883.
Henry Spavin, 1883 to 1902, died December 11, 1902.
Frank H. Hussey, 1883 to 1892, 1895 to 1898.
Edward W. Roper, 1883 to 1888.
Albert S. Burnham, 1884 to 1887.
Warren Fenno, 1884 (now serving).
George F. Wood, 1887 to 1890.
Milton K. Putney, 1888 to 1891.
Alfred S. Hall, 1888 to 1894.
Harrison T. Reed, 1890 to 1896.
Charles F. Perry, 1891 to 1894.
Albert A. Tapley, 1892 to 1895.
Nathan C. Hamblin, 1894 to 1896.
Andrew Garbutt, 1894 to 1897.
H. Winthrop Pierce, 1896 to 1898.
George H. Eaton, 1896 to 1898.
James H. Wade, 1897 to 1900.
Fred A. Hooper, 1897 to 1898.
Lemuel K. Washburn, 1899 to 1901.
J. Samuel Hodge, 1899 to 1904.
Samuel T. Oldfield, 1899 to 1900.
Marshall S. Rice, 1900 to 1901.
Dr. Edwin F. Cummings, 1900 (now serving).
Theodore Grover, 1901 (now serving).
Judge Samuel R. Cutler, 1901 (now serving).
Rev. Nelson S. Burbank, 1903 (now serving).
Nelson S. Hoisington, 1904 (now serving).



NEWDIGATE—YEAMANS HOUSE.



THE TEWKSBURY—SMITH HOUSE.



LIBRARIANS OF THE REVERE PUBLIC LIBRARY
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Miss Annie A. Morse, 1880 to 1891.
Miss Harriet T. Fenno, 1891 (now serving).

ASSISTANTS.

Miss Jessie G. Colton, 1891 to 1892.
Miss M. Frances Shaida, 1892 to 1893.
Miss Theresa Whittemore, 1894 to 1895.
Miss Clara M. Kimball, 1896 (now serving).
Miss Janet P. Gillis, 1903 (now serving).

SOME OF THE LIBRARY BENEFACTORS.

GIFTS OF MONEY.

Revere Woman's Club.
Stephen A. Hall.
Henry F. Cooledge.
Theodore Pinkham.
Edward M. Farnsworth.
Andrew Burnham.
Edward W. Hazewell.
Milton Ray.

OTHER GIFTS

Beachmont Current Events Club.
Mrs. Charlotte F. Farnsworth.
Warren Fenno.
H. Winthrop Pierce.
Theodore Grover.
Miss Adelaide E. Somes.
James F. Butterworth.



THE OLD TOWN HALL.



THE OLD UNITARIAN CHURCH.

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